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HAVING INCREASED MY FACIL-
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A specialty of Bracket and Scroll
work of all kinds. Work done cheap
and every piece guaranteed.
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THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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NO. 42.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things
Present, Past and Future.

It has appeared in the prints that
Mr. James Kennerly who died of con-
sumption at Salisbury recently, warned
the young men about his bed against
smoking cigarettes. He smoked them
for many years and attributed his dis-
ease in no small degree to the effect it
had upon his system. Young men
ought to heed the warning.

While this country is in a state of
peace with the world and we all hope
it may remain so always, men are all
the while at work on new inventions
for more successful warfare. The lat-
est "terror of the deep" is a torpedo
boat by Lieutenant Halpine of U. S. N.
It is being quietly built in Boston and
is most unique in its operations and
effects.

During the last session of Congress
\$9,500 was appropriated for experi-
ments with the Halpine torpedo. Fol-
lowing is a partial description, taken
from the National Recorder:

"The torpedo is a long, slender, ci-
gar-shaped affair, made of copper (or
steel if preferred), and in this is placed
an electric motor, with storage bat-
teries containing sufficient power to prop-
el the torpedo at a speed of twenty-
two knots by means of a screw at the
rear. There is also within it a reel
containing several miles of fine piano
wire, and it is by means of this wire
that the operator retains his control,
the wire passing out as the machine
proceeds on its journey. The operator
may be stationed where he sees fit.
Holding in his hand a simple little
keyboard, all that he need do is to
move an index arm around it, making
connection with any one of a number
of little metal points, to send the ma-
chine ahead, fast or slow; back, put
the helm to port or to starboard
through any angle, or explode the
charge. Briefly, he is enabled by this
simple keyboard to propel, steer, bring
back or discharge his weapon. He
needs no other apparatus, all the motive
power and machinery being within his
missile. He may be on shore, on a
ship or in a small boat, or he may even
put on a life preserver, get astride the
torpedo, proceed on it as far as he likes,
then jump off, and, holding his key-
board in his hands, maneuver his weap-
on as he likes.

"The torpedo may be operated at
any distance within the range of vi-
sion, as the reel inside may hold a doz-
en or more miles of wire. When the
operator sights his prey, he has but to
start the machine in pursuit, speeding
up or slowing down, backing or steer-
ing in any direction in pursuit of the
hostile ship. When the latter is reached,
the explosion may be accomplished in
one of two ways. It may be done
by means of the keyboard, or it may
be done on contact. In the latter case
a long harpoon, which projects from
the nose of the machine, is driven back,
liberating a conical headed canister and
igniting its fuse, which burns for a few
seconds and then explodes the big
charge of high explosive, which is so
powerful as not to require actual con-
tact with the enemy's hull to break it
in. If it explodes anywhere within
20 or 30 feet the disturbance will be dis-
astrous. But here must be described
one of the most unique, peculiar fea-
tures of the invention.

"When the harpoon strikes the ship
and liberates the charge, the torpedo
boat itself is at once backed away
and returns at the top of its speed to
its operator, leaving the harpoon stuck
in the ship's side or entangled in her
torpedo net. The torpedo proper,
which contains the explosive, is dis-
charged from the fundamental ma-
chine, or torpedo boat, and takes a
downward course at an angle of about
45 degrees, but the moment it has
cleared its carriage, it is brought up to
it with the harpoon.

"Thus if a torpedo net is encountered
the harpoon remains entangled in it,
but the explosive, in its medal canister,
dives down beneath it, rises on the op-
posite side and explodes against or close
to the hull. If there be no net, the har-
poon sticks in the side of the hull at
tacked, the explosive diving under and
striking either lower down or on the
opposite side. If the harpoon fails to
stick in the hull or to be held by the
net, it makes no difference, as the ex-
plosion takes place so quickly after the
first contact that its work would be
performed effectively anyhow. When
once it has liberated its charge, the
machine is brought back by its opera-
tor, a new charge, harpoon and reel in-
serted, and it may be again despatched
on its errand of destruction. Nor is it
always necessary to replace the reel, as
the same wire may often be used
again and again."

A LETTER FROM CHINA.

TWO MILLION GRAVES IN ONE
CEMETERY.

Other Observations.

We are at Amoy now, and it is a
very large city. It is one among the
oldest cities in China. All the Euro-
peans live on one side of the harbor,
which is an island about three miles
square. It is not very safe to go
through the old city of Amoy, unless
you have a good guide. The streets
are very narrow, so narrow that two
people can hardly pass each other.
Whenever we visited these places, we
were objects of curiosity to the natives.
This place has a very large population,
crowded in very close quarters. There
are many sights to be seen in and
around Amoy. There were two mer-
chant sailors killed in the old city of
Amoy while we were there by the Chi-
nese but no clue or satisfaction could
be obtained.

Next we come to Chinkiang, China,
and it is one of the largest rice ports
in the world, but it is only a small
town and is situated on the Yangtze
Kiang river. It has an extensive back
country. The most of this rice is
brought down the river in China junks
as they call the China boats. You can
see thousands of these boats on the river
at one time. The Chinese all have
their families on board and live on the
water. When going up this river you
can see nothing but rice farms as far
as the eye can reach. There are canals
cut from this river all through the
country. I appreciated my visit here,
for it was something new to me, seeing
the beautiful temples and the idols
which the Chinese worship.

We come to Wu-Hu, China, which
is situated on the same river about
three hundred miles from Chinkiang.
Quite a number of Missionaries reside
here and they are doing good work.
We are now at Ningpoo, China. This
village is situated on the Young river
about ninety miles south of Shanghai.
The inhabitants are about 200,000 na-
tives, and 165 foreigners most of whom
are missionaries and custom house of-
ficers. The United States and England
are the only countries that are repre-
sented by a Consulate here. Ningpoo
is the seat of a large native trade, but
its exports are small, the main staple
being the varnish. The city proper is
situated in the centre of what might
be called a national cemetery. As far
as you can see, there is nothing but
graves and the scent of the air is ter-
rible. Chinese are sent from all parts
of the world to be buried here. It has
more than two million of graves. They
are all buried above and even with the
surface. Heavy rains often wash the
bodies up and float them away. The
hogs are often seen chewing on the
dead bodies. This is a very sickly
place and there are many lepers among
the natives. The land is very fertile.
The Chinamen eat but very little meat.
They live principally upon rice and fish.

The next place is Chefoo, China.
This is the summer resort of China
and is always cool and healthy. It is
one of the most northern treaty ports
in China and is situated at the mouth
of the Pe-Ho river which leads from
Tientsin to Peking. It was of special
importance to both the Chinese and
Japanese during the war. There is a
large industrial school carried on by
the missionaries here. The chief pro-
duction is silk and it is very cheap.
At the time of my visit there, I saw
ninety five men-of-war in the harbor.
I am on my way to Nankin, China,
now and will write you on my arrival.
C. T. CURRIE.

WHAT MAKES HOME.

Our little lad came in one day
With dusty shoes and tired feet;
His playtime had been hard and long,
Out in the summers nootide heat.
"I'm glad I'm home," he cried, and
hung
His torn straw hat up in the hall,
While in the corner by the door
He put away his bat and ball.

"I wonder why," his auntie said,
"This little lad always comes here,
When there are many other homes
As nice as this and quite as near?
He stood a moment deep in thought,
Then, with the lovelight in his eye,
He pointed where his mother sat,
And said, 'She lives here, that is
why.'"

With beaming face the mother heard.
Her mother heart was very glad,
A true sweet answer he had given,
That thoughtful, loving little lad;
And well I know that hosts of lads
Are just as loving, true, and dear;
That they would answer as he did—
"This home, for mother's lying
here."

—Christian Advocate.

The Muir Glacier.

Leslie's Weekly.

One of the chief attractions to the
tourist in Alaska is the great Muir glacier,
the most wonderful of all the
world. One who has looked upon its
towering front will never forget the
spectacle. It differs from the Swiss glaciers
in the fact that it is not a stream
of ice winding down a mountain-walled
valley, but a broad, gently undulating
prairie surrounded by innumerable icy
mountains, from the shadowy depths of
which flow the many tributary glaciers
that form the great central trunk. One
who has visited it says that "there are
seven large tributaries, from two to six
miles wide where they enter the trunk,
and from ten to twenty miles long, each
of them fed by many secondary tribu-
taries; so that the whole number of
branches, great and small, pouring from
the mountain fountains, must number
upward of two hundred, not counting
the smallest. The are drained by this
one grand glacier, can hardly be less
than one thousand square miles, and it
probably contains as much ice as all
the eleven hundred Swiss glaciers com-
bined. The length of the glacier from
the frontal wall back to the head of the
farthest fountain is estimated at fifty
miles, and the width of the main trunk
just below the confluence of the large
tributaries is about twenty-five miles.
Though apparently as motionless as
the mountains, it flows on forever, the
speed varying in every part with the
seasons, but mostly with the depth of
the current, and the declivity, smooth-
ness and directness of the different por-
tions of the basin. The flow of the
central cascading portion near the
front, as determined by Professor Reid,
is at the rate of from two and a half
to five inches an hour, or from five to
ten feet a day. A strip of the main trunk
about a mile in width, extending along
the eastern margin about fourteen
miles, to a large lake filled with bergs,
has but little motion, and is so little
broken by crevasses that one hundred
horsemen might ride abreast over it
without encountering much difficulty.

"The great ice-wall or front of the
glacier is about three miles wide, but
the sheer middle berg-producing por-
tion that stretches across the inlet from
side to side, like a huge green-and-blue
barrier, is only about two miles wide,
and its height above the water is from
two hundred and fifty to three hun-
dred. But soundings made by Cap-
tain Carroll show that seven hundred
and twenty feet of the wall is below
the surface, while a third unmeasured
portion is buried beneath the moraine
debris that is constantly deposited at
the foot of it. Therefore, were the wa-
ter and rocky detritus cleared away, a
sheer precipice of ice would be pre-
sented nearly two miles long and more
than a thousand feet high. Seen from
a distance, it seems comparatively regu-
lar in form; but it is far otherwise—
bold, jagged capes jut forward into the
sea, alternating with deep re-entering
angles and sharp, craggy hollows with
plain bastions, while the top is rough-
ened with innumerable spires and
pyramids, and sharp, backed blades
leaning and toppling, or cutting
straight into the sky."

Don't bolt your food, it irritates your
stomach. Choose digestible food and
chew it. Indigestion is a dangerous
sickness. Proper care prevents it.
Shaker Digestive Cordial cures it.
That is the long and short of indiges-
tion. Now, the question is: Have you
got indigestion? Yes, if you have pain
or discomfort after eating, headache,
bizziness, nausea, offensive breath,
heartburn, languor, weakness, fever,
inducence, flatulence, loss of appetite,
irregularity, constipation, etc. Yes, you
have indigestion. To cure it, take Sha-
ker Digestive Cordial. The medicinal
herbs and plants of which Shaker Digestive
Cordial is composed, help to di-
gest the food in your stomach; help to
strengthen your stomach. When your
stomach is strong care will keep it so.
Shaker Digestive Cordial is for sale by
Druggists, price 10 cents to \$1.00 per
bottle.

"ORIENTAL HUMP."

WHAT MANY A BOY NEEDS.

Ten Cents' worth of the Future.

Youth's Companion.

There are still many people who
think they can learn something of the
future, or discover how to get rich
without work, by consulting "seers"
and "prophets." But it is not often
that one gets good advice, even for the
usual fee of a dollar, as an Illinois
youth got for ten cents. He sent his
dime and a letter asking for a "predic-
tion," to what he supposed was the ad-
dress of a "seer" in Boston. In a few
days he received the following reply,
written on the stationery of a great
railway company, and signed by a man
whose industry and ability have made
him a respected officer of that com-
pany:

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of the twenty-
first, addressed to Box 213, found its
way into the office of a hardware firm
who rent that box. They felt that they
could not do you justice in the way of
predictions, and so turned the letter
over to me. This is not strictly my
line of business, but I will try to give
you your money's worth.

Now, judging from your age, as stated—
twenty-nine years—I should say you
are not an old man, but you are
certainly old enough to know better.
The sample of hair enclosed is not
coarse enough for an Indian's, so I
know you are not of that race. Be-
sides, no Indian would squander ten
cents on his "future" when he could
buy red flannel or war-paint with it.

I notice that you want to marry a
rich girl, and that you "prefer one with
blue eyes and golden hair," and you
ask what your chances are. I should say
they were about the same as your chan-
ces are of getting struck by lightning
or being President of the United States.
Such things do happen, but the danger
isn't enough to keep a man awake at
night, worrying about it. Besides, the
man who values his future at ten cents
is likely to find the highway of love
pretty hard sledding.

You want to know how you can be
sure to have more money at the end of
the year than you have now. That is
easy: Save more between times.

Now, young man, your future will
depend entirely on yourself. Every
man is the architect of his own for-
tunes, and can build them up at will.
It would do you no good to know your
future ahead of time, for then it would
cease to be a future, and the uncertain-
ties which every man has to provide
for, and which show whether he is good
for anything or not, would be eliminat-
ed.

You can't make a success of life by
getting your future in advance and
then sitting quietly down and waiting
for it to mature. The best way is to
get an Oriental hump on yourself, and
hustle while you wait. Find a hoe and
a turnip patch, or when you feel like
going courting, take a buck-saw and
call on the woodpile, and your future
will take care of itself.

I feel that this is all I can afford to
give you for ten cents.

Very truly yours,
H. D. BLANK.
P. S.—A friend of mine and myself
have appropriated the ten cents.

Free Silver Watches.

Spartanburg (S. C.) Herald.

A young farmer living over in North
Carolina near Hendersonville paid the
Herald a visit yesterday morning. He
stated that while engaged in digging
a well last week, his pick suddenly
struck some metallic substance, after
having gone about four feet in the
ground. Upon closer examination of
the object it proved to be a large iron
pot, containing exactly twelve double
case, solid silver watches.

He had several of the time pieces on
his person. They all seemed in per-
fect order. One of them bore the
name of Henry Henry, London, Eng-
land; another W. C. Sampson, Switzer-
land; while a third had the name Sim-
kins Owens scratched on the inside of
the case, and the words, "bought at Ge-
noa, Italy," written just under it.

The name of the gentleman who
found the prize is J. N. Langford,
whose home is about eight miles from
Hendersonville. He says that he is
thinking seriously of going into the
well digging business.

Cure for Headache.

As a remedy for all forms of head-
ache Electric Bitters has proved to be
the very best. It effects a permanent
cure and the most dreaded habitual
sick headaches yield to its influence.
We urge all who are afflicted to procure
a bottle, and give this remedy a fair
trial. In cases of habitual constipa-
tion Electric Bitters cures by giving
the needed tone to the bowels, and few
cases long resist the use of this medi-
cine. Try it once. Fifty cents and \$1
at E. T. Whitehead & Co's Drug Store.

The Davis Warehouse,



ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

I desire to say to the Tobacco Growers of Halifax and adjoining counties,
that I am better prepared than ever, to get you the very HIGHEST MARKET
PRICES for your tobacco. We have plenty of Buyers, and with more than
SEVENTEEN YEARS EXPERIENCE in the Warehouse business, I do not
hesitate to tell you that Rocky Mount is the market and, the Davis Warehouse
the place, to sell your tobacco.

GIVE ME A TRIAL AND I WILL PLEASE YOU.
PROMPT ATTENTION GIVEN TO ALL SHIPMENTS.
Your Friend,

Buckner Davis.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

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OF NEBRASKA.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:
ARTHUR SEWALL,
OF MAINE.

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CYRUS B. WATSON,
of Forsythe.

For Lieutenant Governor:
THOS. W. MASON,
of Northampton.

For Secretary:
CHAS. M. COOKE,
of Franklin.

For Auditor:
R. M. FURMAN,
of Buncombe.

For Treasurer:
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of Wayne.

Supt. Public Instruction:
J. C. SCARBOROUGH,
of Johnston.

For Attorney-General:
F. L. OSBORNE,
of Mecklenburg.

For Supreme Court Judges:
A. C. AVERY, of Burke,
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FOR CONGRESS SECOND DISTRICT:
FRED. A. WOODARD,
OF WILSON.

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For the House—W. H. THORNE, DR.
R. A. PATTERSON.

For Sheriff—C. W. DUNN.
For Register of Deeds—J. FRANK
BRINKLEY.

For Treasurer—B. F. TILLERY.
For Coroner—J. H. FITZGERALD.
County Commissioners—W. C. Daniel,
E. W. Hyman and Whit. H. Johnston.

JEWELRY

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from the Chicago Watch Ma-
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took a thorough
course, and is
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ALL KINDS OF REPAIRING

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From U.S. Journal of Medicine
Prof. W. E. Fiske, who
makes a specialty of
Epilepsy, has without
doubt treated and cured
more cases than any
living Physician; his
success is astonishing.
We have heard of cases
of 20 years' standing
cured by
him. He
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ease, which
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tle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferer
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YOU WILL
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YOUR
Business.
SEND YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN NOW.



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ceased and some limit as to price. All
work warranted strictly first-class and
entirely satisfactory. 3 1 ly

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S. R. ALLEY,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
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OVER JOHN BATTLE'S
SHOE STORE.
SIDE ENTRANCE.

WILL BE GLAD TO HAVE
ALL MY FRIENDS AND PAT-
RONS CALL AND SEE ME.

Reasonable Prices
AND

All Work Guaranteed First-class.
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